

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02931 191149Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /025 W  
-----113251 191219Z /40  
R 182015Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0638  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2931

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, PA  
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL INFORMATION  
ON HOST GOVERNMENT

REF: A) STATE 148782 B) STATE 159747 C) ASUNCION 0868 (1976)

1. REF C REMAINS A BASICALLY VALID ASSESSMENT OF PARAGUAY'S BEHAVIOR IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, SUBJECT TO THE MODIFICATIONS SET FORTH BELOW. WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, IN THE PAST TWO YEARS WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PRESENTED TO THE GOP OUR VIEWS ON MANY KEY MULTILATERAL POLITICAL ISSUES. THE DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED EXCELLENT BACKGROUND ON NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES, ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ON THE VARIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES ARISING IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, AS WE EXPAND THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF ISSUES ON WHICH WE CONSULT, WE WILL BE MORE DEPENDENT UPON THE DEPARTMENT FOR KEY BACKGROUND INFORMATION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WITH RESPECT TO ISSUES ARISING IN THE UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY THE EMBASSY AND GOP DISCUSSED THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE JUNE ILO MEETING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE ANYONE REALIZED THAT THE GOP WAS NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE SINCE IT HAD NOT PAID ITS DUES SINCE 1921. GIVEN THE DISORGANIZED STATE OF THE PARAGUAYAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PLUS THE DPEARTMENT'S REGULATIONS REQUIRING RETIREMENT OF EMBASSY  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02931 191149Z

FILES AFTER THREE YEARS, SIMILAR CASES MAY ARISE IN THE FUTURE. INFORMATION FROM THE DPEARTMENT ON THE HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARAGUAY AND A SPECIALIZED AGENCY MAY BE THE KEY TO PERSUADING THE GOP TO UNDERSTAND AND ADOPT OUR ARGUMENTS ON A SPECIFIC ISSUE.

2. OUR PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT IN REF C MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED

IN SOME IMPORTANT RESPECTS. THE EMERGENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS A KEY ISSUE FOR THE UNITED STATES HAS INTRODUCED A NEW AND UNCERTAIN ELEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH PARAGUAY THAT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT ALL U.S. INTERESTS HERE, INCLUDING PARAGUAY'S TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. ON MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS. AT PRESENT MATTERS ARE IN A STATE OF FLUX. AN OPEN, PUBLIC CONFRONTATION WITH THE STROESSNER REGIME OVER HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES COULD VIRTUALLY WIPE OUT WHATEVER INFLUENCE WE MIGHT HAVE ON MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS. ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES THEMSELVES WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED THAT AT THE RECENT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PARAGUAY STOOD WITH THE OTHER SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES IN OPPOSITION TO THE U.S.-SPONSORED HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS. WHETHER PARAGUAY'S STANCE ON OTHER TYPES OF ISSUE WILL BE AFFECTED REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT A CLASH OVER HUMAN RIGHTS COULD SO ALIENATE THE PARAGUAYANS THAT THEY WOULD VOTE WITH US ONLY WHEN OUR POSITION COINCIDED WITH THEIR HARD-CORE ANTI-COMMUNIST LINE OR WHEN SOME OTHER CLEARLY RECOGNIZABLE PARAGUAYAN INTEREST WAS AT STAKE.

3. A RELATED DEVELOPMENT IS THE RISE IN INFLUENCE IN ASUNCION OF THE OTHER SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY BRAZIL, AND THEIR SWITCH TO A MORE ACTIVE DIPLOMACY VIS-A-VIS PARAGUAY. TO DATE THE MAIN THRUST OF THIS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN TOWARDS DEVELOPING A COMMON POSITION AGAINST U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES. FOR A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE PARAGUAY, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASUNCI 02931 191149Z

CONCERN OVER THEIR NEIGHBORS' ATTITUDES HAS PROVEN TO BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN FORMULATING POLICY IN THIS REGARD. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THIS "BLOC" IS SUFFICIENTLY COHESIVE TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY OUTSIDE THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, OR WHETHER SUCH OTHER ACTIVITIES WOULD NECESSARILY BE IN OPPOSITION TO THE U.S., GIVEN THE RIGHT-WING ORIENTATION OF THESE REGIMES.

4. THE EMBASSY WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.

5. ANDREW KAY, JR., FSO-3, IS DESIGNATED MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR THIS POST.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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